Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 109345

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SECRETSTATE 109345

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 109345 SENT ACTION BANGKOK CANBERRA KAKARTA KUALA LUMPUR MANILA SINGAPORE DTD 10 MAY 75 QUOTE:

SECRETSTATE 109345

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US, ASEAN

SUBJECT: ASEAN CONSULTATIONS WITH US RE SEA

REF: A) BANGKOK 7991; B) MANILA 5702; C) JAKARTA 5319

- 1. DEPARTMENT AGREES (REFS A AND B) IT IMPORTANT NOT TO UNDERTAKE HASTY DECISIONS WHILE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA REMAINS UNCLEAR AND IN STATE OF FLUX.
- 2. RE US RELATIONSHIP WITH ASEAN (REF C) YOU MAY ASSURE ASEAN MEMBERS, IF QUESTION ARISES, THAT US HAS NO INTENTION OF ATTEMPTING TO USE ASEAN AS A TOOL. YOU MAY POINT OUT THAT US HAS SCRUPULOUSLY AVOIDED INTERFERING IN ASEAN AFFAIRS IN THE PAST AND OUR POSITION I ONE OF RESPECT AND APPROVAL OF ASEAN'S INDEPENDENT CHARACTER. AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT ASEAN MEMBERS WILL WISH CONSULT AND WORK WITH US AS SITUATION IN SEA DEVELOPS.
- 3. WITH REGARD TO US POSITION ON SEA NEUTRALIZED ZONE SECRET

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(REF A) OUR ATTITUDE REMAINS BASICALLY THE SAME. (STATE

66814) WHILE CONCEPT MAY WELL HAVE LONG TERM VALIDITY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE HURRIEDLY PUSHED IN A REACTION TO EVENTS IN INDOCHINA. SUCH HASTE IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE COMMUNIST VICTORIES IN INDO-CHINA COULD UNDERMINE RATHER THAN STRENGTHEN STABILITY IN THE AREA. WHILE

IT IS EVIDENT THAT A NEW BALANCE MUST BE STRUCK IN ASIA IT MUST BE DONE CAREFULLY AND WITH THOUGHTFUL DELIBERATION. FOR OUR PART WE WILL HAVE TO EXERCISE CARE BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS NOT ONLY ON OUR BASES AND PRESENCE IN AREA BUT ALSO WELL BEYOND ASIA. WE COUNT ON OUR FRIENDS IN THE AREA TO WORK WITH US IN ACHIEVING THE KIND OF FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS WHICH WILL BE TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT AND WILL PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND ORDERLY EVOLUTION.

- 4. YOU SHOULD MAKE THESE POINTS IF APPROPRIATE IN ANY CONVERSATIONS WITH ASEAN MEMBERS. SIMILAR POINTS MAY BE MADE WITH ANZUS PARTNERS AT YOUR DISCRETION.
- 5. ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB PLANS UNDERTAKE HIS OFT POSTPONED VISIT TO AREA BETWEEN MID-MAY AND MID-JUNE AND WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH ASEAN COUNTRY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH THIS IS TRAVEL WHICH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB INTENDED TO MAKE SINCE BEGINNING OF YEAR BUT HAD TO DELAY BECAUSE OF PRESS OF EVENTS, IT SHOULD PROVIDE USEFUL OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT INFORMALLY AND AT LEAST IN PRELIMINARY FASHION ABOUT ISSUES OF MUTUAL CONCERN. KISSINGER UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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